

The writing is on the wall—scrap this 4-2-4

Wycombe Wanderers 2, Woking 4.

WYCOMBE WANDERERS must discard their 4-2-4 playing policy. This fact emerged crimson clear after Tuesday's display against Woking. With Barry Baker and Charlie Gale being given the mid-field link roles, it leaves only four forwards to supply the goalpower. When you consider that Keith Samuels often drops back, too much of the goalscoring mantle is placed on Tony Horseman.

No one would question Tony's ability, but even he cannot work miracles without support. All Woking had to do was block Horseman and the attack spluttered to a halt.

It is significant to note that when Wanderers scored their two goals they had reverted to an orthodox line-up, with Baker back at right-half and Roystone being drafted in to lead the attack. Surely playing five forwards is the only system which can be used with any real effect in amateur football?

Four second-half goals from this moderate Woking side shook Wycombe. It must be put on record that two of them were presents from a shaky Wanderers defence.

NO GOALS

In the early stages the Wycombe formation worked promisingly with fluid breaks from defence to attack. The Woking goal had many narrow escapes, but for all their neat approach work that one vital ingredient was missing — goals. But Horseman and Samuels were prominent with fine efforts, which brought the best out of 'keeper Farris.

Wanderers again threatened at the start of the second half when Gale and Samuels swapped passes, before Samuels forced Farris to a flying save.

At this stage Woking came into the game for the first time and after 52 minutes went into the lead. A poor back-pass from Rundle left Trevaskis clean through, and as he rounded Maskell, Roystone came across to intercept. Both players crashed to the ground and the referee awarded a penalty which Woods thumped home.

Two goals in a three-minute spell shattered Wycombe's composure. First in the 60th min-Trevaskis made a fast break down the left-wing and his low centre was steered home by Warman.

A bad mistake by Faulkner and Maskell presented Woking with their third goal. Both players hesitated before Faulkner finally cleared the ball, straight to Tindall who promptly scored.

Now three down, could Wanderers achieve the almost impossible feat of forcing a draw? After all, only just a week before Woking had pulled it off when Wycombe had held a three goal advantage with just 20 minutes before the final whistle.

SAMUELS NETS

Hopes were raised in the 70th minute as Horseman's cross was missed by 'keeper Farris, and Samuels was on hand to force the ball home.

Although now adopting a more orthodox approach Wycombe had made the switch too late. Five minutes from the end Woking scored a further goal when Eyres was outpaced by Warman and Trevaskis volleyed his cross past the stranded Maskell.

Almost on the whistle came a Worley solo effort. After beating three men he cleverly chipped the ball, from the right wing, into the top left-hand corner. But the glory belonged to Woking who must have been very surprised to record their first Isthmian League victory of the season at Loakes Park.

Wycombe Wanderers: J. Maskell; P. Eyres, R. Roystone; I. Rundle, V. Faulkner, C. Gale; L. Worley, B. Baker, K. Samuels, A. Horseman, L. Merrick.